THE CROSBY VOICE

NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY
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Hello again,

And welcome to the dreaded 1984! Perhaps things won't be that bad after all, certainly not if the encouraging headlines in the papers are anything to go on.

The new year brings a slightly new look to this magazine, beginning with the cover. Actually, that illustration of Bing as a waterlogged golfer was chosen to set up the 'theme' of this issue - that of Bing's love and involvement with golf.

The idea for this theme only came about because I suddenly found that I enough different material on the subject to take up a large part of one issue of the Crosby Voice, and rather than spread it over several publications, I decided to concentrate it in the one. If you like the 'theme' idea, I'll see what else we can scrape up this year.

The golf story begins on page 7 where we feature the signed cover from a souvenir programme from a 1976 charity golf match at which Bing was one of the guests, whilst pages 8 - 10 features extracts from a magazine article 'Golfing With Crosby' in which Bing describes and related anecdotes about several of his favourite courses.

Page 11 highlights some anecdotes from Bob Hope on Bing's game and our centre pages feature the layout from the Famous Pebble Beach Golf Course on which the Bing Crosby National Pro-Amateur Golf Championship has been held annually since the early 1940's.

Did you know that funds raised by the tournament actually go to help charity? You can read which charities on page 38.

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The Victorian Bing Crosby Society, PO Box 422, South Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. 3205.

Executive Committee: President, Bob Machliss. Vice-President, Ken Orren. Treasurer, Keith Dorman. Secretary, Les Saynor.

General Committee: Bill Bennett, Josie Conway, Sylvia Harding, Jim McManus and George Styles.

U.S.A. Rep: Richard Pearson, PO Box 1481, Arlington, Virginia 22210.

On pages 40 and 41 we have the story of Bing's biggest golfing 'hit' 'Straight down the Middle' - and there are several other bits and pieces on golf scattered throughout the magazine.

Of course, it's not all golf this issue, Member Bob Schrader recently lent us his Crosby scrapbooks and we've selected several interesting items to appear this and next issue. See pages 17 and 32 for a sample.

On page 20 we reprint an article on well-known Melbourne collector John Ferguson, which appeared recently in the Age "Weekender". Committee member Bill Bennett also gets a guernsey in this one.

Another item of interest appears on pages 28 and 29. It's a small extract from the recently published 'Hollywood Golden Age Nostalgia Map'. The complete thing is about 24" x 16" and features a simple road map of Hollywood covered with dozens of references to famous names and places of the past that have relevance to Hollywood history. The section of map that we've chosen to illustrate features the Monmarte Cafe where Bing and the Rhythm Boys landed their first job after leaving Paul Whiteman in 1930. The map is very reasonably priced and you can find how much and how you can buy a copy if you turn to the appropriate pages.

The Christmas just past was one of the poorest 'Crosby Christmas's' on record, in Melbourne certainly. No Crosby movies on TV and no Christmas specials. Only on Christmas day were we treated to a repeat of 'Bing Crosby - His Life and Legend', but even this had only been on a year or so before.

The situation was made even worse by the fact that for the first Christmas in memory, Bing's 'Merry Christmas' album was not on sale, as were none of the LP's from his Decca era! The reason for this is that Astor Records, who held the rights to all of Bing's MCA (Decca) material, have gone out of business, and Phonogram Records have taken over the rights. Having done this, they then promptly deleted virtually everything in the MCA catalogue - good sellers and bad - and that included all of Bing's records! Phonogram say that they have no plans to reissue any of the material at this time, so let's hope that they have a change of heart. Perhaps a few letters to the company might help!

Well, after that gloomy start, let's cheer things up with future functions.

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FUTURE FUNCTIONS

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ALL THIS YEAR'S DATES - PLEASE NOTE THEM DOWN NOW!

FEBRUARY 13TH - FILM EVENING
MARCH 25TH - CHICKEN BARBECUE
APRIL 30TH - FILM EVENING
JUNE 18TH - FILM EVENING
AUGUST 13TH - FILM EVENING
SEPTEMBER 22ND - SOCIAL FUNCTION
OCTOBER 22ND - FILM EVENING
DECEMBER 3RD - FILM EVENING

N.B. OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED UNTIL MAY. COULD YOU PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU WILL RECEIVE NO FURTHER NOTIFICATION OF THE FEBRUARY, MARCH AND APRIL FUNCTIONS.

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WIN THIS CROSBY MIRROR!
Just one of the door prizes on the evening!

FEBRUARY 13TH - FILM EVENING - "SHE LOVES ME NOT".

Here's an early Crosby movie we haven't shown before. Made in 1934 it stars Bing and Miriam Hopkins and introduced the Crosby standard "Love in Bloom". Other songs from the movie are "Straight from the shoulder" and "I'm hummin', I'm whistlin', I'm singin'.

Supporting the film will be a number of clips from early musicals including, if all goes well, a colour sequence from Eddie Cantor's 1930 feature - "Whoopie".

APOLOGY: My fault entirely, but the feature "Here Is My Heart" is not available in Australia and shouldn't have been advertised in the last newsletter.

MARCH 25TH - CHICKEN BARBECUE.

Our annual chicken barbecues are usually a very pleasant occasion and this year's should prove to be no exception. Bob Paull's chicken tastes the way chicken should taste - slowly barbecued over charcoal and basted with a combination of wine and vinegar until it's moist and tender with a crisp outer skin. There are no leftovers when Bob Paull cooks and he supplies plenty of chicken.

In addition to the chicken there's fresh salad, rolls and butter, homemade apple strudel and freshly brewed real coffee!

The price, in these inflation-ridden times is an extremely reasonable $7 per adult and $6 per child. Please BYO drinks, though.

For the third year in a row, member Wally Carson has been kind enough to donate his Brighton home and garden (thanks Wal!) and his address, for those who have not been there before, is 5 Parker Street, East Brighton. Telephone 592 7310. We get underway about 11.00 am and continue til stumps.

As usual, the beautiful and ever popular Jim McManus will be on hand to dispense fun and prizes with the lucky wheel and of course, there'll be plenty of Crosby to listen to.

BUT WE MUST FINALIZE THE CATERING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. A RESERVATION FORM WILL BE FOUND IN THE CENTRE OF THE MAGAZINE. PLEASE FILL IT IN AND RETURN IT NO LATER THAN MARCH 2ND. AND PLEASE MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND IF YOU SAY THAT YOU ARE GOING TO. WE HAVE TO PAY FOR A SET NUMBER OF PEOPLE, NO MATTER HOW MANY TURN UP, AND IT'S YOUR MONEY THAT GETS WASTED IF THIS HAPPENS!

Any enquiries, please phone Keith Dorman - 878 0375.

APRIL 30TH - FILM EVENING - "ROAD TO UTOPIA"

"Road to Utopia" has been called ninety minutes of unceasing lunacy! It's certainly full of great gags and characters and is well worth our showing on April 30th. In support, we'll have the usual bag of mixed shorts - titles still to be determined. If you listen to our spot on 'Remember When' on 3AW around the date, you'll hear exactly what they'll be.

VENUE (for this and our February 13th meetings) is the theatrette of the Mobil Building, 2 City Rd, South Melbourne. $2 members, $5 member families, $1 pensioners and U-18's. $4 non-members. Films roll 7.30 SHARP! Try to get there around 7.00 if possible.

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PAST FUNCTIONS

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DECEMBER 5TH, 1983 - FILM EVENING

Our final meeting for 1983 was packed full of things and ran almost til 11.00pm.

The documentary "Hollywood On Parade" was very popular with the over eighty members present and may be slated for a re-run in a couple of years.

"Here Come the Waves" was perhaps not quite as good as we had been led to believe, but was entertaining nonetheless.

Several members took home unexpected Christmas gifts in the form of raffle prizes. Harold Carson won a copy of 'Road to La Habra' by our U.S. member Gregg Hammond. Diane Houlihan collected a copy of the double LP 'Bing and Friends'. Herbert Joyce took home a copy of 'The Bing Book Of Verse'. Ron Were was very pleased with a volume of 'Bing - Just for the record'. Harold Carson fronted up again with a second lucky ticket and took home 'The Films of Bing Crosby', whilst the top prize of the evening, a copy of Kathryn's book 'My Life With Bing' went also to a double lucky Diane Houlihan.

We had a couple of visitors on the evening - two gentlemen with Bing Crosby mirrors to sell. Unfortunately, there were no sales, but one of the mirrors was donated to the club for a future raffle. (The one to take place at our February 13th meeting, to be exact.)

If you are interested in purchasing one of these very attractive mirrors, why not write to the gentleman concerned. His name is Graeme Walter and he may be contacted at 4 Seaton Court, Mount Waverley, Victoria, 3149.

The mirror is available in two sizes - small size costs $20 and large mirror - $26. Packing and postage extra of course.

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SEND CLIPPINGS NOW

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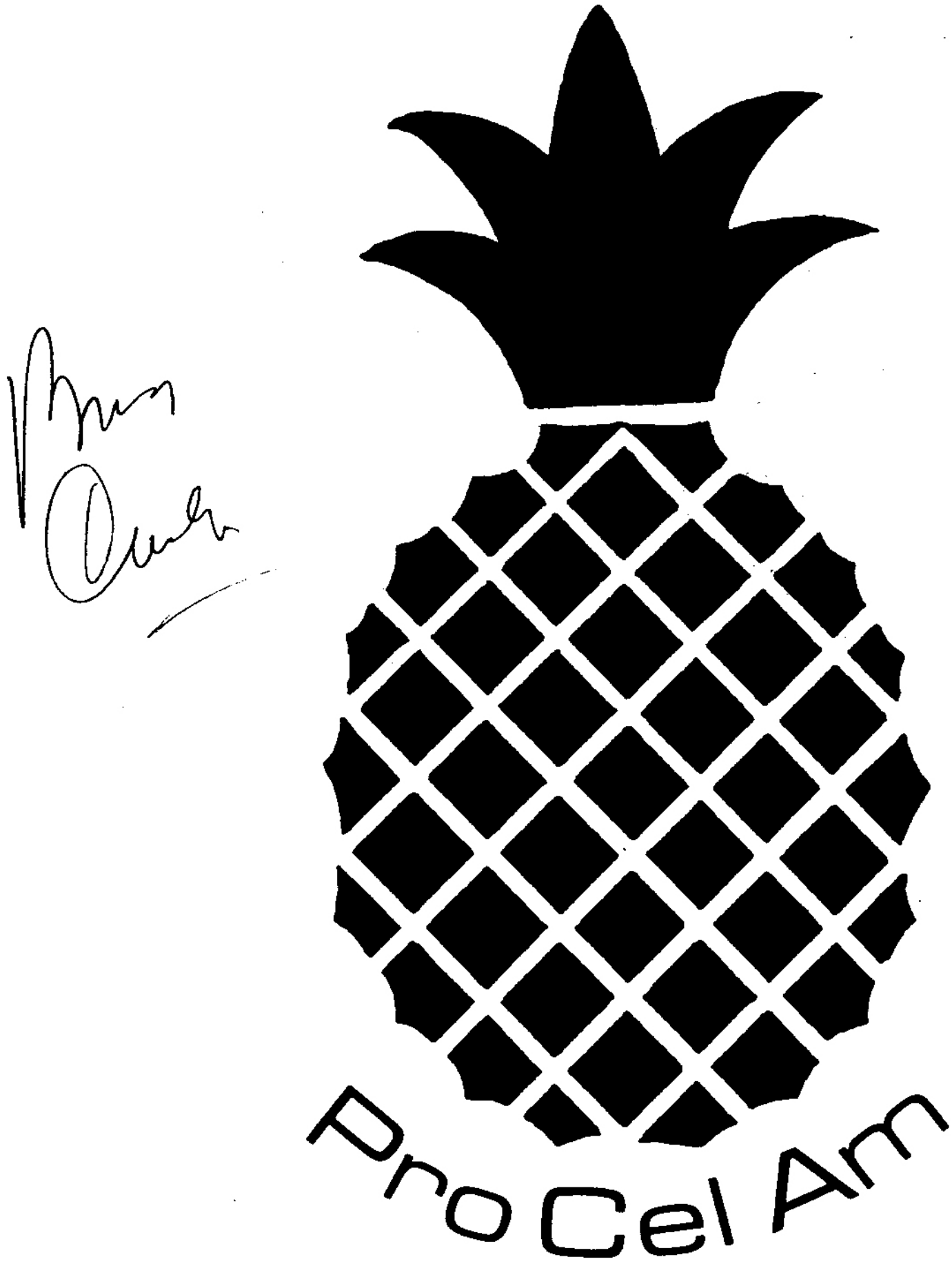
This magazine is a newsletter and depends on NEWS to keep it interesting. If you see anything on Bing in a newspaper or magazine, please clip it our and send it to us. We'll return it if you like but we much prefer the original, not a photocopy..



Golf Tournament

(COVER OF A SOUVENIR PROGRAMME FROM A 1976 CHARITY GOLF MATCH AT WHICH BING WAS A GUEST. NOTE HIS SIGNATURE AT UPPER LEFT)

GOLFING WITH CROSBY

Bing's perpetual quest for the formidable fairway and the grandest green

by Don Freeman

The name itself—Bing Crosby—has a leisurely lilt to it, and I asked him once if the name "Bing" had proved to be an asset. Harry Lillis Crosby puffed languidly on his pipe and nodded. "The appellation was right for me," he said. "It made a difference. There just aren't many Bings in public life." His nickname had its derivation in Crosby's fondness, as a kid in Spokane, for a comic strip called "The Bingsville Bugle."

"My life might have been a bit different," he says, "if I'd had a penchant for Happy Hooligan."

For those of us who still croon in the shower, who still try to sing-talk and saunter, to those of us who wanted to own baseball clubs and racehorses and hunt and fish and golf, swap jokes with Hope, scat-sing with Satchmo, and win the girl in all the movies so easily, Bing still reigns. His public appearances are less frequent now—a concert here, a TV guesting here and there. But once each year he is host-commentator of the Bing Crosby National Pro-Am Golf Tournament, also known as the Clambake (held each January at Pebble Beach, Cypress Point and Spyglass). On such occasions, he offers lessons in the deceptively difficult job of color analyst of a golfing contest.

In the 1976 Crosby Pro-Am telecast, for instance, there loomed on the screen the sweet singer from Delight, Arkansas, Glen Campbell, who has a hitch in his swing that you could use to plow the back 40. With such a swing, Campbell plunked his drive flat into a bunker, an event recorded in every merciless detail by the cameras. "He's in the loge," said Bing, with a sigh.

Later in the telecast, Bing watched Jack Nicklaus prepare for a difficult putt, somberly measuring the distance on the green, reading every bump and bend of the grass. "He put that cold halibut eye on the line," Bing commented. One of Gentle Ben Crenshaw's short putts Bing described as "just a little tender," and Crenshaw, the eventual winner, he called "stoic under pressure."

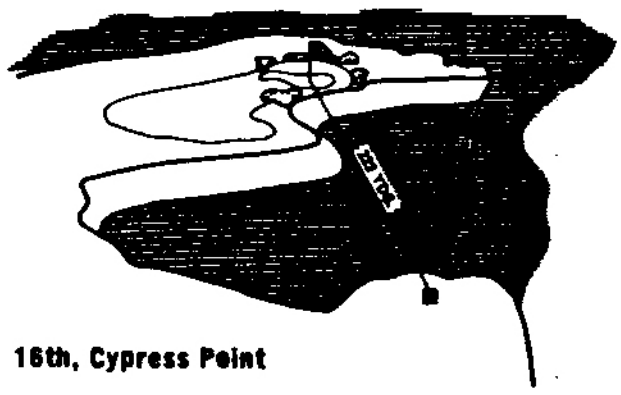
But Bing himself is, to use a phrase he once employed about somebody else, as loose as ashes. ABC's Jim McKay once asked about another golfer's capabilities. How would he do in a match with Bing?

"Oh," said Crosby airily, "he'd give me one out and a floater." Which, as they say around the pro shop, means that he would receive one stroke on the toughest hole on the front nine and another stroke wherever needed on the back nine.

It was Bing, in a previous tournament at Pebble Beach, who observed Jack Lemmon, a fine actor but a lesser golfer of our time, slashing away at his ball in grim futility. "He looks," said Bing, "like he's basting a turkey."

The next voice you hear – it still sounds, in ordinary speech, like a musical scale–belongs to Bing Crosby, describing his favorites as follows:

"The 16th at Cypress Point. The greatest par three in the world. There's a 220-yard carry from the tee to the front of the green over the sea, which is generally rough. There's a wind coming up, waves crashing on the beach. The green is big and fast and very capricious, not all that easy to read. On a



16th, Cypress Point

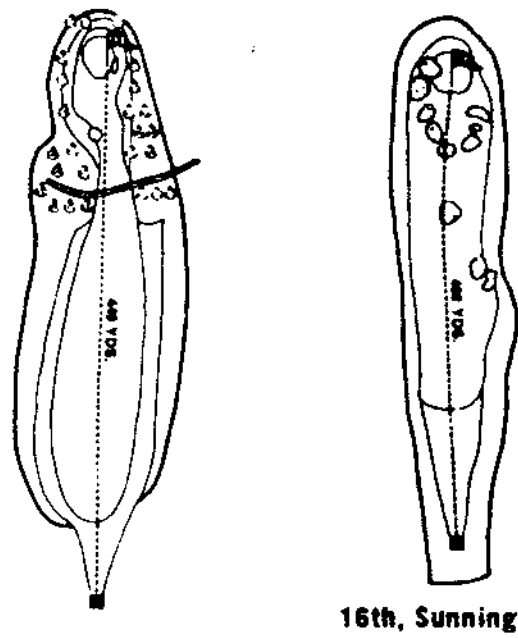
Monday in 1947, I was playing with a group that included Stuart Haldorn, an old chap, a member who'd only go about three holes, then drive up to the clubhouse and watch the rest of the way with field glasses.

"Well, I hit one through the mist with my driver. Haldorn saw the ball going into the hole and he started calling members on the phone. By the time I got to the clubhouse, there was quite a quorum present. The bar was opened and the drinks, of course, were on me. The tab went about $700 but it was well worth it, considering the magnitude of the exploit.

"It's a fearsome hole. I remember Andy Williams looking across the vast expanse of water and he said, 'The only way I can carry the hole is with a hundred-mile-an-hour wind at my back!' This is the hole where the late Porky Oliver, in the 1953 Pro-Am, went for sixteen strokes. The splendid English pro Henry Ransom found himself in the swirling waters and hit three shots, and all of them struck the cliff. The third one ricocheted off the rocks and hit him in the stomach. 'Pick up the ball,' Henry told his caddy. 'When they start hitting back at me, it's time to quit!'

"The 13th at Killarney Golf Club in Killarney, Ireland. In the Irish lake district. Very lush and green, many trees, many wild rhododendrons to give a tone of tranquillity. This par four, 449-yard hole is a jewel, quite intoxicating in its beauty. Ah, but you meet treachery in the form of a concealed stream invisible from the hilltop tee. Not to mention the heady winds. One time I was having some trouble hitting my drive into that stiff breeze, and this little old Irish lady, bundled to the nines, pipes up from the gallery, 'Bing, slip it *under* the wind!' It was after a match at Killarney that I was giving a little talk to a group of people. Before I finished my first sentence, this Irishman in the back of the hall yells out in a brogue as thick as bog: 'We can't see you, Bing. Would you ever stand on your wallet?'

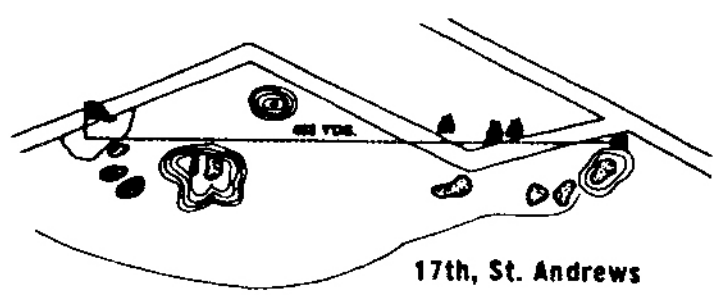
13th, Killarney



16th, Sunningdale

"The 16th at Sunningdale–the old course–in England. Almost as difficult to describe as it is to play, a lengthy par four going uphill to an indecently fast green. A par here makes you feel like a champion, and many championships, indeed, have been won on this hole.

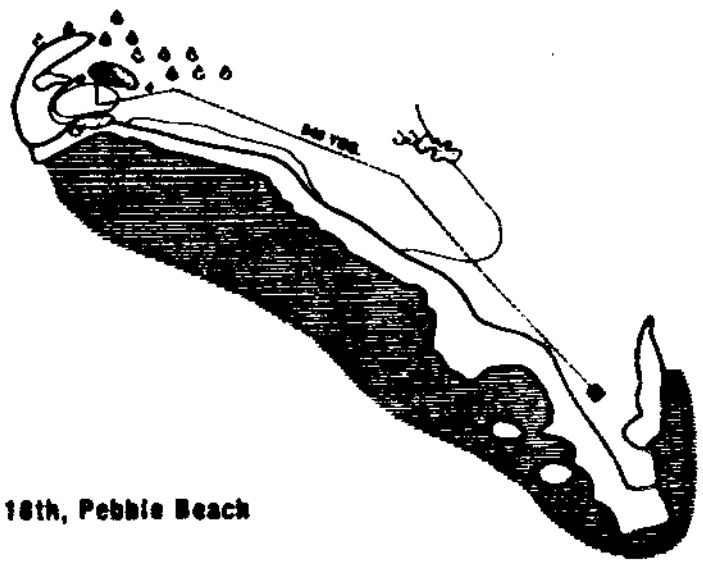
"The 17th at the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St. Andrews. It's known as the Railroad Hole because of the rail-



17th, St. Andrews

road tracks to the right toward which the fairway breaks. But if you play too much to the left, you've got a very stern, demanding shot into the green which is tiny, narrow and fast and guarded by yawning bunkers. The Scots are terribly keen on golf, and it's not unusual to see families in the gallery, complete with dogs. Being Scots dogs, they never bark when you're in your backswing.

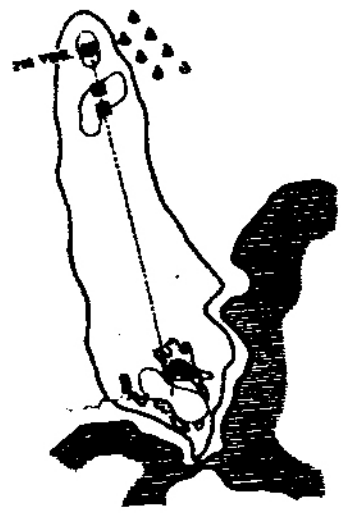
"The 18th at Pebble Beach. Not a particularly long par five in the 535 range, but the wind can make it play in a variety of ways. If the wind's in your face, for a big hitter it's two woods and a medium iron. If the wind's with you, it can be reached with two mon-



18th, Pebble Beach

strous shots, which is what Nicklaus does. A hook puts you on the rocks or in the ocean—but to the right there's a Sahara of a trap with a tree impeding your second shot. The green's a veritable James Joyce novel to read. It should break toward the ocean, but it doesn't always. Lot of stories about this famous, challenging hole. Once, Tommy Bolt—he of the terrible temper—was standing over his putt and he heard the whirr of the camera held by a woman spectator. 'Lady,' Bolt snapped, 'why are you doing this to me? I wouldn't come into your kitchen and crack my knuckles if you was makin' biscuits!' Bob Hope calls Pebble 'Alcatraz with grass,' and you don't get time for good behavior on 18. Bob Goulet one time tripped while trying to make his second shot and fell off the seawall into the angry Pacific. I remember my Northern California neighbor, Tennessee Ernie Ford, having his troubles on 18 and getting his feet somewhat damp. 'I've worked all my life to keep from walking in the mud,' Ernie said sadly, 'but every year I pay $400 to come here and spend a week in it!'

17th, Pebble Beach



"The 17th at Pebble Beach. Great par three. Go over the green and you're in the ocean. Deep bunkers surround a half-moon-shaped green with tremendous breaks. One year, Phil Harris just made the edge. Phil's putt was so long, in order to negotiate the borrow, he had to putt through the frog hair and then back down on the green. Made it, though. Somebody asked Phil how long the putt was. Phil said, 'I don't know, but I'd like to have that much real estate on Wilshire Boulevard.' In the National Open, Nicklaus almost holed out for an ace, stopped three inches from the cup. I remember in 1962 when Jack celebrated his 22nd birthday whilst playing in our Pro-Am. At dinner, he was called to the phone through which he was treated to a full rendition of 'Happy Birthday to You.' Puzzled, Jack then said coolly: 'To whom am I speaking?'

"'This is Bing Crosby,' I felt obliged to say.

"'Oh, I'm sorry,' said Jack Nicklaus, 'I didn't recognize the voice.'" ■

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BOB HOPE ON BING AND GOLF

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(The follcwing is extracted from the January 1979 issue of 'Golf Digest' and features several anecdotes on the subject headed above.)

"I liked Bing right away," Hope says. "He made me feel comfortable right from the start, at the studio and on the golf course. And could he play! I joined Lakeside that year and teed it up with him every chance I could get."

Hope and Crosby were the stars of a tour called the Victory Caravan during World War II to promote the sale of defense bonds. "I was with Bing and Bob at Elliott Roosevelt's house in Colorado Springs the day Pearl Harbor was bombed," Dick Gibson recalls. "They both wanted to join the service, but I convinced them they could do more good as civilians by raising money for the war effort through golf. Their tours were responsible for millions of dollars in defense bonds."

One round drew over 28,000 spectators at Tam O'Shanter in Chicago. "The crowd didn't know much about golf," Hope says. "They ringed a circle around us. I had to say, 'Hey, open up, we're going *that* way. I've never seen anything like it."

Another time, in St. Paul, Hope and Crosby were scheduled for a morning charity match at Midland Hills Country Club. Bob had been up the night before partying with friends at the Lowry Hotel. In the best tradition of Walter Hagen, he arrived at the course still in his dress clothes, stepping grandly out of a chauffeured car and changing shoes at the first tee. He played nine holes and shot 35.

The PGA, grateful for Hope's and Crosby's contributions to golf, presented them gold money clips in 1942. Hope still displays his proudly.

In the early 1940s Crosby and Hope became American institutions. Both had their own radio shows, and on film they collaborated in the memorable "Road" pictures with Dorothy Lamour. Their golf clubs were never far away.

"Bing was always a little better player than me," Hope admits. "At his peak he was a 2-handicapper. My best was a 4, but mostly I played at about a 6. Bing took the game seriously. I liked to play it for laughs, but Bing worked hard on his swing. On the picture sets, whenever we had a break, Bing would ask, 'How long?' Then he'd head over to Wilshire Country Club, 10 minutes away, and hit balls until they called him back. Finally the producers partitioned off a part of the set and installed a net so we could practice. We almost killed off a couple of technicians.

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NEW RECORD RELEASES TO ORDER
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In the centre of the magazine, you will find an order form for the following new records. Please mark those records you wish to order and return the form to us with the appropriate deposit, NO LATER THAN FRIDAY MARCH 2ND. Any orders received after this date cannot be accepted. So get in early. It would be a pity to miss out on these great new records.

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AROUND THE HALL, VOLUME 1

A new release featuring meticulously polished tapes from the original Ed Rice tapes.
Titles: When that midnight choo choo, My little girl, hometown, Virginia Lee, You're a sweetheart, I thought about you, Confucious say, You're an education, Naturally, Whispers in the dark, Trade Winds, Make Believe Island, Pale Venetian Moon, Two hearts that pass in the night, When the swallows come back to Capistrano, Thanks for the memory.

Chances are that you've never heard Bing sing any of these songs. All come from late 1930's broadcasts when Crosby was in superb voice. This is an LP not to be missed, and as it's a limited edition, this may be your first and only chance to get a copy.

BING AND TRUDY ERWIN

In the 1940's, Trudy Erwin was resident female vocalist on Bing's Kraft Music Hall broadcasts. These tracks are culled from those programmes.

Titles: It's all over (Bing), My Ideal (duet), Right kind of love (duet), One alone (duet - sounds funny if it's "One alone!), My shining hour (Trudy solo), Oh! what a beautiful morning (duet), You took advantage of me (duet), My heart stood still (duet), Wait for me Mary (duet), People will say we're in love (duet), I heard you cried last night (Trudy solo), Sometimes I'm happy (duet), You'll never know (Trudy solo), The way you look tonight (duet) and Hit the Road to dreamland (duet).

Once again, we have a collection of titles, most of which Bing never recorded before. And you can take my word for it, the sound on this record will be superb.

CROSBYANA VOLUME 2 - THE FABULOUS ED RICE TAPES - 1937

We wrote about this record an issue or two ago - it features more Ed Rice material, although you should be warned that we're told that the sound could be better and that some echo has been added. However, the cost is reasonably low, so we will be happy to handle orders for you. There are 21 titles in all on this LP, some songs that Bing recorded, some that he did not - Smiles, That old feeling, Sweet Little You, I don't want to get well, and others.

BING AND AL - GOLDEN DUETS

We first reported on this issue midway through last year but due to the fact that we had other records on order and a shortage of cash, we did nothing about it. The disc features a selection of Crosby/ Jolson material taken from mid to late radio broadcasts and quality is good.

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OTHER NEW RELEASES

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Other recent issues, although not on our order list, are:

The Saturday Side of David Jacobs BBC records (UK) REH 475
Bing is represented on one track "So Rare" taken from the Bing/ Buddy Cole/Ken Barnes sessions. Many other artists featured also.

Trumpets and Trombones Vol 1 Broadway BR112. US
All Dorsey material, with Bing represented by his 1929 "My Kinda Love" recording with the Dorsey Brothers Orch.

One Night Stand With Bing Crosby at the Music Hall - US Joyce 1117
This features a Crosby/Hope show previously issued on Spokane under the title "Bing and Bob" but is considerably edited. Side 2 features odd Kraft air shots. Interested parties may write to Joyce Music Corporation, Box 1707, Zephyrhills, Fl. 33599, USA.

And that seems to be it for new records. However, any deficencies in the above are more than made up by the first two releases on our import list. And there are more and better things coming later in the year! Watch these pages for details.

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COLLECTOR'S CORNER
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Leading off a mixed bag of Collector's items in this issue we have firstly the original 78 issue of the soundtrack of the Disney short "Who Killed Cock Robin?", the title character being a charactature of Bing - as shown.

This 78 label is pretty much self-explanatory. It features 'Blue of the Night' and was, I believe, only distributed to Philco Radio dealers. Would anyone care to elucidate?

Here's an LP that's had a number of covers over the years, most recently with a late 1930's colour photo of Bing and the title 'Bing Goes Latin'. This is an early 60's incarnation under the record's original name 'El Senor Bing'.

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ANOTHER CROSBY PUBLICATION OF INTEREST

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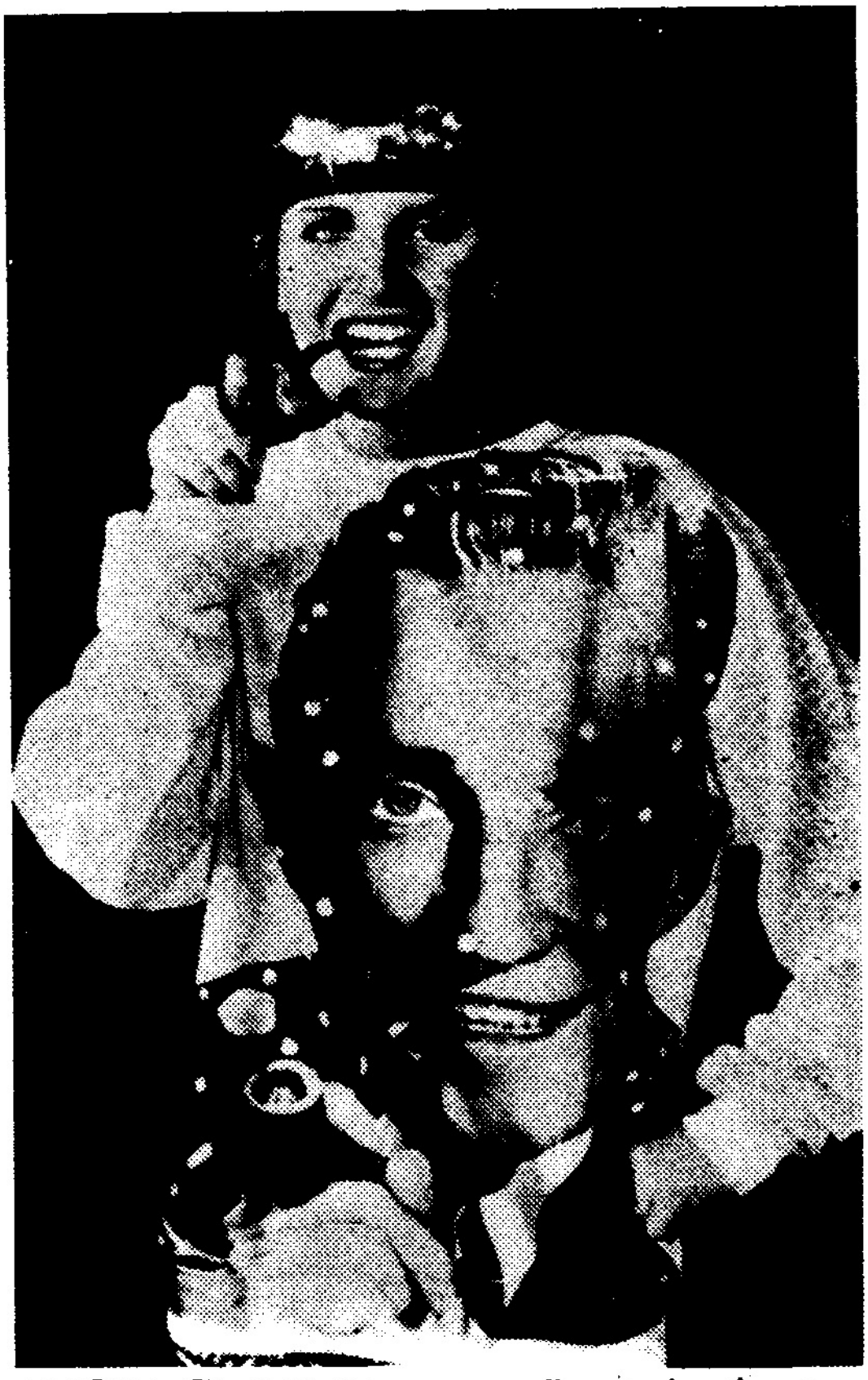
THE CROSBY CHRONICLES - "The Life and Times of Harry Lillis Crosby".

John Marshall of England has produced a remarkable publication in "Crosby Chronicles". Roughly the same format as this magazine, the edition I have seen runs to 80 pages and is unlike any other Crosby magazine around.
Every page is packed with interesting photographs of Bing, reprints of old articles, anecdotes, and of particular interest to English readers, the magazine is scattered with old advertisments of the 1930's and 40's, in their own way, as strong on nostalgia as anything else.
One of the aims of "Crosby Chronicles" is to give readers an idea of what life was like in the days when Bing was in his heyday, and John achieves this with a balance of news items of the day, articles (some old, some new) on Bing's radio shows and letters from people (some famous) who were around at the time.

The following extracts from a letter I received from John may help to round out the picture further:

"What I finally settled for...basically, is a non-contributory, probably non-democratic outlet for a number of things that would not normally see the light of day. I deal with the lighter side of Bing and am keenly aware that, for most of us, them thar golden days around the 30's and 40's ARE still largely unploughed for certain little nuggets. Read, as I have, contemporary magazines and notice that in a time of so much happening, acres of interest have been ignored by people today as being small time.
Every issue, I retrace, week by week, the continuing story, using umpteen hithertoo unknown bits and pieces, which, while they may not grip you by the throat, are all valuable parts of the overall jigsaw puzzle."

Currently, John has some 70 subscribers to his magazine which he says is "really putting strains on my very limited resources" but if you are interested, drop him a line and see what eventuates. U.K. subs are £2.50 p.a. but overseas mail will certainly make this higher. John's address is: 39 Kings Road, Teddington, Middlesex TW11 0QD, England.



We originally featured this remarkable Crosby sweatshirt when it first appeared, several year's ago. Unfortunately, reproduction was so bad in those days that you would have been lucky to know that that you were looking at a picture of Bing, let alone on a sweatshirt!
So when this new picture came along, courtesy of Bob Schrader, I thought that it was well worth another go round.

One last thing - does anyone know where I can get one - size 38?!

HOT STUFF

The greatest gear in London is the big and beautiful Bing Crosby sweatshirt. Lines have been running hot from suppliers to boutiques — and interestingly the prices varied. Some sold for around $20 but, as soon as you set foot in trendy Covent Garden and other chic hangouts, the costs just soared.

And if you think the face of the model is familiar, meet Denese Crosby, who is the granddaughter of the Old Groaner himself.

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NEWS FROM THE BING CROSBY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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* 1984 sees the celebration of Tacoma's centennial. The Bing Crosby Historical Society's tribute is to be the featured entertainment for the month of May.

* On November 11th, 1983, the Washington State Historical Society announced 17 new names were to be added to the state's Centennial Hall of Honour. A total of 100 Washingtonians will be named for the state's 100th birthday in 1989. Bing's name was nominated by the BCHS and accepted.

* A hand-polished jewellers pewter tie-tack featuring a cameo of Bing with pipe and hat is available from the BCHS for US$9.95.

* Sunday May 5th and 6th are the dates for the 1984 BCHS Tribute. Saturday afternoon, visitors will be able to test their luck at cash BINGo. The evening banquet will feature a guest speaker, and there will be comedy numbers and musical entertainment. Sunday afternoon will see a feature movie starring Bing while the evening banquet will star the twenty-voiced Wilson Choir presenting their "Salute to Bing".

* There are a number of projects in the works by various groups, concerning BCHS. A member in the San Francisco Bay area is working on a plan for a "Video Book" about Bing the innovator entrepreneur and patriot. Several companies are looking at this project.

* You may have heard that after a long search for new premises, the BCHS found sunny new offices with the promise that they could have them rent free for two years. Ken Twiss now writes that they have been given notice to move by January 31st this year which is a real blow. Remember too as we sit back in our Australian summer, that Tacoma in January is in mid-winter! We wish Ken well in his search for new offices.

* Membership in the Historical Society is open to everyone who has an interest in Crosby. For details, please write to the President, Ken Twiss, PO Box 8013, Tacoma, Washington, USA. 98408.

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TRADING POST

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As there are not too many items for the Trading Post this issue, I thought that I might as well feature a list of my wants. I have quite a large list of duplicates, both 78's and LP's, and I will be happy to supply a list to anyone who writes. I am also happy to purchase any of the following. Please address all letters to the club address: PO Box 422, South Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3205.

(ALL NUMBERS GIVEN ARE U.S. CATALOGUE NUMBERS BUT ANY COUNTRY OF ISSUE WILL DO.)

Victor 27688 - That's Grandma. 24078 - Poor Butterfly.
35934 - Metropolis Pt 3.

Columbia/Okeh 41228 - I'm crazy over you/Susianna
41181 - Spell of the blues/Let's do it
41188 and also 1772D - My Kinda love
1993D: At Twilight

Brunswick 6259 How long will it last 20106 - Face the Music Medley
6329 - With Summer coming on 6515 - What do I care, it's home.

Decca 24413 - So much in love 27801 - Without a word of warning
28683 - There's music in you 28610 - Ohio/A quiet girl
29636 - Angel bells 2641 - Go fly a kite
3637 - Birds of a feather 18432 - My Great great grandfather
18360 - Waltz of memory 24718 - Betsy
18768 - Riding down the canyon 4840 - I don't want to walk
23788 - Rose of Tralee 18705 - Ave Maria
23777 - Tumbled down shack 23530 Who's sorry now/I found a new baby 23848 - As long as I'm dreaming 23778 (1947 78 version) White Christmas 18501 - Silent night
24144 - O fir tree dark 23975 - Goodbye my lover goodbye
24696 - Imagination 14517 - Rock of Ages 14500 - What a friend we have in Jesus/He leadeth me 90013/4 - Man without a country 40090/1 Ichabod 27229 - Silver bells
27418 - St Patricks Day Parade 27831 - It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas 28217 - A flight of fancy

cont/.....22

WEEKENDER Friday 6 January 1984

THIS is not just a hobby. The records, the collection of gramophone needles and ancient gramophones and the pianola rolls are John Ferguson's obsession.

This obsession, carefully indexed and cross-referenced, piled in ceiling-high shelves and stacked in cabinets and trays, lies behind the quiet facade of a suburban home in Melbourne.

Here are 100,000 78-rpm records, one of the best private collections of 78s in Australia; here are 500 different types of gramophone needles, 2000 piano rolls and dozens of gramophones.

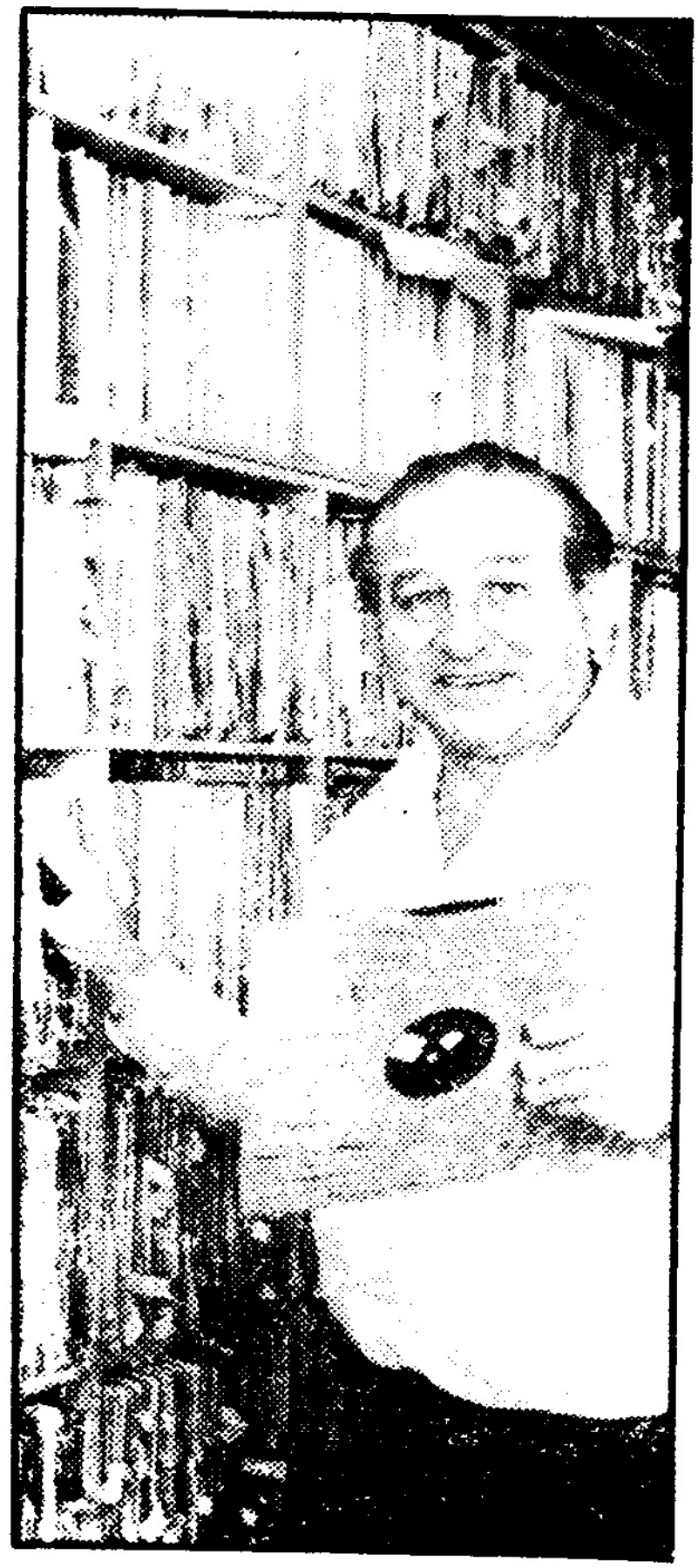
"It is a mess, isn't it?" Mr Ferguson says, and smiles tentatively. "I love music".

You wade through the loungeroom, where planes he made with his son 20 years ago share space above the fireplace with Edison phonographs, and cross a landing into a long back room supported by concrete bearers to withstand 40 tonnes of 78s.

It all started as a hobby in the 1940s when Mr Ferguson was teaching ballroom dancing and needed to get the relevant records. In 1946 he sold most of his records to buy his first car, a 1927 Citroen.

The hobby turned serious after John Ferguson suffered three heart attacks in the Seventies. After open-heart surgery five years ago, he retired from engineering and devoted himself to home, to music, and to a radio program on 3CR, Nostalgia Unlimited, which he and fellow nostalgia buff John Milne host every second Sunday.

3CR seems to be brimming with record fanatics. Another record collector is Bill Bennett, a cement-truck driver who hosts Nostalgia Unlimited every other Sunday. Ralph Knight, who hosts Steam Radio on 3CR every Saturday afternoon, has a collection of about 5000 records from the Twenties and Thirties.



John Ferguson: 100,000 records, all pre-1958.

John Ferguson's collection is strictly 78s, from 1898 to 1958. He has the 19th century Berliners; thick, black, small, one-sided discs, which Emile Berliner was perfecting in Germany at the same time as Thomas Edison in America was working on the cylinder records.

He plays 'False Thrills' by Reginald Kenneth on one of his two studio turntables. He sprays the disc with Mr Sheen before placing it gently on the turntable. The sound is scratchy but good. Berliner sold out to the Gramophone and Typewriter Co. which later sold out to His Master's Voice. The label still shows the cupid-like angel which was the Berliner's trademark, with Nipper the dog listening to Emile Berliner's gramophone.

Mr Ferguson finds two identical records titled 'I See Two Lovers', both sung by Dick Powell (or so the label says) and both with the same catalogue and matrix numbers. He is delighted when you recognise that the voice on one of the records is not Dick Powell's. It is Russ Colombo, who died in 1934 from a gun he accidentally discharged. The bullet richoted round the room and ended in Russ Colombo's forehead.

Somehow, a mistake was made and Colombo's 'I See Two Lovers' was issued under Dick Powell's name. "Now that is the sort of thing that makes for a valuable record", John Ferguson says.

But his strongest obsession is for Al Bowlly. The dance band leader of the Thirties and early Forties made 1140 records, and John Ferguson has 1050 of them. The only other person with a bigger collection is Bowlly's girl friend in England. "He is my number one love", Mr Ferguson said.

The Al Bowlly collection is not with the other 78s in the back room. It has its own cabinet in the diningroom of Mr Ferguson's home. The collector notes that Bowlly's last record, released on 2 April 1942, and titled 'When That man Is Dead', was prophetic: two weeks later the great band leader and crooner was dead.

There are rows of Bing Crosby 78s, some of them issued on cheap labels under pseudonyms. He has Bing Crosby reject takes, bad takes which Bing then proceeded to mock totally by singing outrageous lyrics, and which were smuggled out of the recording studio and put on to rare records.

He has all of Bing Crosby's records — about 700. He possesses one of the rarest Fats Waller pianola rolls in the world. He has Filmophones, flexible blue plastic discs with two singles on the one side, and cardboard on the reverse side. He has British-made, seven-inch, sixpenny, Victory label records. He owns 33 1/3 rpm, 16-inch, 1925 soundtracks for films, newsreels and radio serials such as 'Tarzan' and 'Dad and Dave'..

He is no match for New York lawyer, Jacob Schneider, who owned 450,000 78s. About three years ago, Schneider auctioned them and earned $3.5 million.

But John Ferguson's mammoth collection fills him with happiness. "It is the fun of collecting", he says, "and of the sharing of the music with Melbourne. The average person thinks, oh, scratchy old 78s . . . "

He put on a 1935 Regal Zonophone recording of Harry Leeder's Silver Bell. "Now, that is beautiful", he says. But a lot of the stuff we don't play very often".

Fellow 3CR announcer Ralph Knight has his doubts about collectors. "I am a bit ashamed of being one", he said.

"I think it is a symptom of trying to regress to your childhood and not succeeding. You are trying to get some symbol from your childhood and you try to get and collect more and more. It can bring out the ugly parts in human nature. You might find a lot of collectors are really quite funny people. I suppose me included".

Susan Molloy

Bob Machliss Wants List cont. from page 19

28254 - Just for You 28515 - To see you is to love you
28419 - Cool Water 25540 Vaya Con Dios
29341 - Blue Skies/Mandy/I'd rather see a minstrel show

All the above are required on 78. As I said earlier, I do not necessarily need the US issues, nor indeed, the particular US label issues I have listed above. But condition should be E+ or better.

I also want the following 45's -

Columbia 41496 - Secret of Christmas/Just what I wanted for Christmas.
Reprise 0478 - Far from home/How green was my valley

And the Columbia Special Products LP C11083 - Joyous Christmas Vol 6.

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TIM MORGERETH, 1906 Codd Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21222 USA is working on a Bing Crosby Discography and Filmography covering all of Bing's 78 recordings through 1956, radio shows through G.E. and a complete film section. Anticipated release date is sometime this year.

TIM NEEDS YOUR HELP!

He requires Song titles from the Chesterfield Broadcasts
KMH data (song titles and some dates)
Woodbury data
Music that satisfies data
B & W photos - film stills, publicity shots, preferably with sponsor identification.

Tim has arranged to donate a portion of his proceeds to the Bing Crosby Historical Society birthplace purchase fund. If you can help him in any way with the material he requires, please do so.

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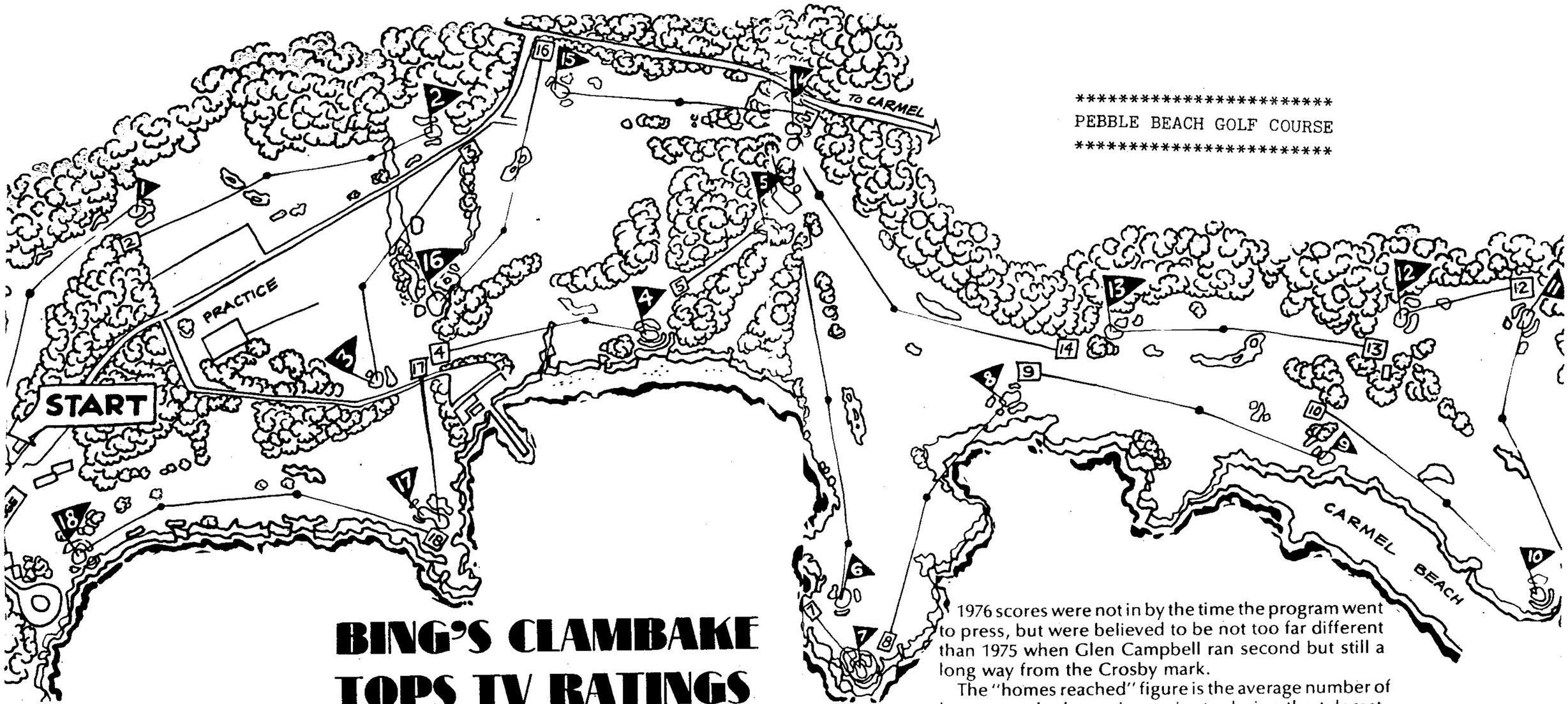
VIDEO MATERIAL WANTED

Paul Barnes, Box 860, Auckland, New Zealand is after Bing on video, particularly any American specials from the early 60's (not Hollywood Palace), Bing & Fred Astaire London special (late 70's), Bing and Vera Lynn, same period, Top of the morning, If I had way.

Please write to Paul direct.

Listener In-TV, Sept. 24-Sept. 30, 1960

These days, Listener In-TV is known as "Scene". Back in 1960, the name was a hangover from the days when the publication was for radio programmes only - long before the one-eyed monster appeared in our homes. By the way, that doesn't look anything like Bing's signature! Probably faked up for the issue by one of the artists. Compare it with the real signatures on pages 7 and 45.



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PEBBLE BEACH GOLF COURSE
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BING'S CLAMBAKE TOPS TV RATINGS

Bing's Clambake is on top of the TV ratings as usual, with a whopping 12 million 600 thousand homes tuned in for the Sunday two hour broadcast in January, 1976, making it the second year in a row.

The rating, topping all other tournaments, fell a little below the 1975 score, but was the fourth highest listening audience in the history of the Crosby, 1975 having been the 2nd highest. Highest rating was scored in 1971.

1976 scores were not in by the time the program went to press, but were believed to be not too far different than 1975 when Glen Campbell ran second but still a long way from the Crosby mark.

The "homes reached" figure is the average number of homes reached any given minute during the telecast.

Behind Crosby in the rating were the prestigious Masters, the Hawaiian Open, Bob Hope, Dinah Shore, Florida Citrus, Heritage, Dean Martin, Tournament of Champions and the U.S. Open.

The only time the U.S. Open came anywhere near the Crosby was the year when the Open was played at Pebble Beach and even then did not quite make it.

The Crosby will again be broadcast coast to coast Saturday and Sunday afternoons by ABC-TV.

SIGNUM of Gonzaga University, March 1973

Crosbyana Room Receives Another Platinum Record

FATHER CARROLL WITH BING'S PLATINUM RECORDS

A platinum record marking the sale of 300,650,000 Bing Crosby records, was received recently by Gonzaga University and has been placed with other Crosby memorabilia in the Crosbyana Room of the Crosby Library on the campus.

The disc of "Silent Night" is inscribed with the date Sept. 15, 1970, when it was presented to Harry Lillis (Bing) Crosby, Gonzaga's most widely-known alumnus, by Decca Records Co.

Joins Another Platinum Disc

Another platinum record in the Crosbyana Room, Bing's "White Christmas" marks the sale of 200 million Crosby records. It was received by the library in November 1961 and is inscribed with the date, June 9, 1960, the time it was presented to him by the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce.

"Imagine selling 100 million records over a 19-year period," said Fr. Clifford Carroll, S.J., librarian and custodian of the Crosbyana Room, "and Bing has been in retirement."

Replica of Bing's Oscar

The Crosbyana Room also has a replica of Bing's Oscar for his Academy Award-winning motion picture, "Going My Way." Gold records on display included "Swinging on a Star," "Don't Fence Me In," "I'll Be Home For Christmas," "Dear Hearts and Gentle People," "Jingle Bells," "The Whiffenpoof Song," and "Sweet Leilani."

A computer study in 1961 showed that if all the Bing Crosby records which had been sold up to that date were played on just one side, the combined footage of the grooves would be 7,550,460 miles, 4,527 feet and six inches. If that figure were projected to include the additional 100 million sold over the last 10 years, the footage would extend to around 10 million miles.

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THINGS FOR SALE

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THE VINTAGE RECORD SHOP

Last September, we brought you details of Peter Murphy's Record Centre as it was then known. Peter has now changed the name of his business to 'The Vintage Record Shop' (named after the sadly missed Nevin Walker's business) and has a large selection of old 78's, including a number by Bing, for your perusal.
His shop is located at 159 Ormond Road, Elwood (telephone 531 3938) and is open Monday - Thursday 5.30 - 7.30 pm and Saturdays and Sundays from 12 - 5 pm.

LP'S AT A DISCOUNT

Two of Melbourne's record shops offer discounts to members.
They are: The Bentleigh Sewing and Record Centre, 348 Centre Road, Bentleigh (phone 557 1050) and Cunningham's Hi-Fi & Records Centre, 80 Church Street, Brighton. (Phone 592 2066)

COLOUR PHOTOS OF BING

Frank Murphy operates the Bing Crosby Photo Club out of the U.K. and issues many colour photos of Bing every year. Cost p.a. to join is UK£3.00, Continent £4.00 and overseas £8.00. When you join you receive three photographs plustwo photographic badges.
Frank Murphy, 32 Ferndale Ave, Wallsend, Tyne and Wear NE28 7NE, U.K.

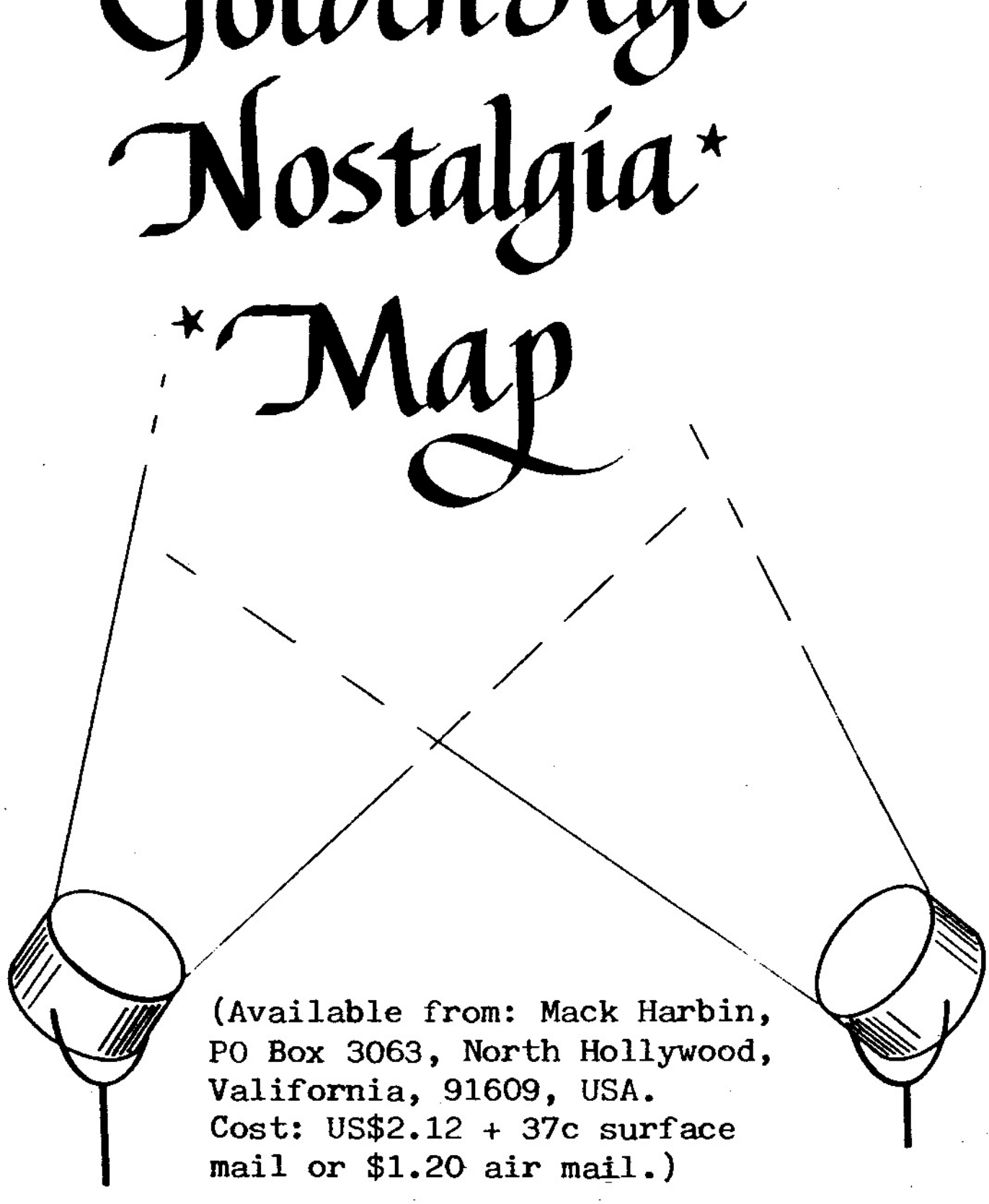
BING TAPES

Arnold Baker, 48 Groomsport Road, Bangor, Co Down, Northern Ireland BT20 5LR, has dozens and dozens of Crosby cassettes for sale, covering just about everything you can imagine. One Australian subscriber is so delighted, he has ordered everything in Arnold's catalogue!

BING DISCOGRAPHY

If you have even a small collection of records, you must have a copy of 'Bing - Just For the Record'. It lists every commercial issue of Bings from go to whoa in both alphabetical and chronological order. Send your bank draft or IMO to: John Joyce (Bookbinders), Saltmeadows Road, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear NE8 AH3, England.

HOLLYWOOD Golden Age Nostalgia Map



(Available from: Mack Harbin, PO Box 3063, North Hollywood, Valifornia, 91609, USA. Cost: US$2.12 + 37c surface mail or $1.20 air mail.)

7047
CASTLE
FRANKLIN Av.
FRANCIS X. BUSHMAN'S HOME - GONE NOW NEW HOTEL
McCADDEN Pl.
TICK-TOCK RESTAURANT HRS. 11:30 - 2:00 P.M & 4:00-8:00
VILLA CAPRI RESTAURANT
GARDEN COURT APTS. 1919
ORANGE DR.
1927 GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE
WAX MUSEUM
ORIGINAL DON THE BEACHCOMBER - FIRST ACROSS ST. INVENTED THE ZOMBIE COCKTAIL
6757
6764
6667
SYCAMORE Av.
ROOSEVELT HOTEL - 1ST OSCAR AWARDS IN BLOSSOM ROOM - 1929
1903 - 1956 HOLLYWOOD HOTEL "THIS IS LOUELLA PARSONS" FROM THE HOLLYWOOD HOTEL RADIO
GRAUMAN'S EGYPTIAN THEATRE 1922 MANY PREMIERES
C.C. BROWN ICE CREAM PARLOR, 1922 INVENTED HOT FUDGE SUNDAE
1935 - MAX FACTOR SCREEN MAKE-UP
MONTMARTE CAFE 1923, RHYTHM BOYS WITH BING, 1ST JOB AFTER PAUL WHITEMAN - NOW ACTING SCHOOL
HOLLYWOOD THEATRE - CITY'S 1ST?
MUSSO-FRANK GRILL - CITY OLDEST - 1 RESTAURANT
SELMA
MICKEY'S B-Q - FAST FOOD RESTAURANT SEATS 36 NOW GONE
CAHUENGA BL.
HOLLYWOOD HIGH SCHOOL STARS ONCE STUDENTS
SUNSET BLVD.
WILCOX AVE.
CHARLIE CHAPLIN HOME - NOW SUPERMART & HIS STUDIOS NOW A&M RECORDS
CHEROKEE AVE.
HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN DAILY OCT. '42 - NOV. '45 FOUNDED BY BETTE DAVIS JOHN GARFIELD - NOW PARKING LOT
DE LONGPRE
HIGHLAND AVE.
VALENTINO MEMORIAL STATUE IN PARK
LAS PALMAS Av.
FOUNTA
SANTA MONICA BLVD.
1040
LEXINGTON
GENERAL STUDIOS NOW ZOETROPE STUDIOS - FRANCIS COPPOLA, OWNER
ELEAN

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LETTERS

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From Stan Sherlock, Donvale

I recently had a business trip with a client who at the last moments of a two day journey revealed that he had once managed plantations in Africa. There he met Bing, William Holden and one other actor at a hotel where Bing's actual words were "Come on Aussie, join our table". When he subsequently arranged a safari or two, he stayed with my client at hotels in between.
My client said that Bing was the most courteous and considerate person. He would retire early and then come down for a drink (Fanta) and casually stroll amongst the late night guests in his slippers and pyjamas.
On one occasion, he asked Bing to sing "White Christmas" but Bing refused at first with genuine shyness. He asked "Haven't you got the record?", then said "I'll send you one". But my friend persisted and Bing finally sang for him.
For Louis Armstrong fans, he also once had Satch sing "Mack the Knife" !

From Hugh McTeigue, 92 Baringa Rd, Northbridge, NSW 2063.

I'd be interested in corresponding with any individual (male or female) who can use a microphone and pickup to discuss Bing Crosby, his music and his life. Also, 30's British and American dance bands, light music, soundtracks, etc.

I'M SURE THAT WE CAN FIND SOMEONE TO CORRESPOND WITH HUGH. BM

From Clem Parkinson, Highett

I was interested to read in the latest 'Crosby Voice' of the International Fan Club Directory, and was wondering if you could let me have the address of any overseas Perry Como clubs which may be listed. (I checked, but there are none listed. Can anyone help Clem? His address is 24 Royalty Ave, Highett 3190, Victoria. BM)
I would like to obtain cassette copies of songs from his radio and TV shows and also the recordings he made with the Ted Weems Orchestra.

Some time ago, I suggested that it would be good to see an article on Burke and VanHuesen in the magazine. Is there any possibility of this happening? There have been several books published over recent years about the golden era of popular song, but the above-mentioned

never rate a line and I would like to see our club set the ball rolling. (How about it, members? Who'd like to put pen to paper and give us the story of Burke and Van Huesen. These two songwriters contributed dozens of hits to Bing's career, and Clem is right, you hardly see a word on them. BM)

From Girvan Paterson, Oakleigh

I read in a recent American video magazine that MCA have released "King of Jazz" on cassette in the US and it is soon to appear on Laser disc. Apparently they recently found a mint condition print of this film in a London vault. What I would like to know is, why did MCA/Universal (who made the film in 1930) have to look in London to find a good print? Are their own vaults and archives in such a poor state? If so, what conditions are all the other early Crosby films in? MCA are supposed to hold most of the Paramount catalogue, maybe that's why more of them haven't appeared on videocassette - they can't find any mint condition 35mm pmints or negatives for transfer. Makes one wonder, doesn't it? (Who can answer Girvan's query? Drop us a line and we'll include it in the next magazine. BM)

From Les O'Donnell, Brisbane

Last week I received my copy of 'Bing - Just for the record' and I thoroughly agree that it's a great book - much better than any others I have. It's a great help in solving one of my major problems, ie sorting out my Crosby discs into the order they were recorded as some were recorded quite a few times with years in-between sessions.

From Richard Pearson, Arlington, Virginia.

Does anyone have a copy of the unissued song 'If I had a Hammer' from the Bing and Basie album? I'd love to have a tape of that. (So would I Richard! Can anyone help? BM)

From Charles D Baillie, Arcadia, California

Since the 'Hollow Man' attack and Gary's bad book, the rest of the country seems to want to forget Bing. The local paper lists the Road movies as "Road to - starring Bob Hope", no mention of Bing! Books on movie greats now miss him by and the local stations playing 40's, 50's and 60's music seldom play any of his records. Let's hope we can start the pendulum swinging the other direction very soon. On the plus side, one local TV station is playing two

cont/...33

Australian jockey Geo. Moore found Bing easy to know when he met him at Paramount Studios where Bing was making a picture.

BING CROSBY may visit Australia early next year for a buffalo-crocodile hunt

"THE CLUB CROSBY"

Australian Branch

Crosby fans! Don't be content to admire Bing from a distance—join "The Club Crosby" now and be in with the gang. This Official American Club has branches in Australia, England and Canada and members all over the world, such as Austria, Switzerland, Singapore, India, etc., so, if you like corresponding with others who share your interest, now is your opportunity. The Club Journal is packed full of the latest news about Bing and each issue includes two free snaps. Other snaps may be purchased and you also have the chance to enter the various competitions for which grand prizes are given. Don't delay—join now! For further particulars of Bing's No. 1 Club write, enclosing stamped-addressed envelope, to Branch Leader—

BARBARA DOGGETT,
Railway Residence,
Coff's Harbour Jetty. 2C.
North Coast. N.S.W.

THREE CLIPPINGS from Bob Schrader's scrapbooks, all with some Australian connection. George Moore is, of course, a very famous Australian jockey, still well-known today. However, I don't know what became of Bing's projected 'buffalo-crocodile hunt' !!! The Club Crosby is still alive and well today and you can find details of where to write elsewhere in this issue. Does anyone remember, or know what became of, Barbara Doggett?

Letters, cont from p 31

of Bing's old movies next week - "East Side of Heaven" and "If I Had My Way" - both Universal. We'll enjoy seeing them, even though they're not among Bing's best.

From Richard Pearson (again), Arlington, Virginia

England was great but I failed to accomplish my main objective, namely to get to know the President of Cilla's fan club better. Everything else went according to plan. Hopefully, I'll have two colour shots of my arm around Cilla. I even got to kiss Pet Clark and frankly, I wouldn't trade that kiss for anything! Went to see a great play in London "Mr Cinders" which is a revival of a 1929 show. I love 1930's musicals.

From Vern Taylor, Portland, Oregon

The 'Bing Book of Verse' is a pleasant and gentle pleasure. I thank you sincerely for sending it.

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BITS 'N' PIECES

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* Although this has nothing to do with matters Crosby, it was with genuine sadness we noted the passing of radio and television entertainer Bob Dyer recently. American readers will be particularly interested to know that Bob originally came from their country in the late 1930's, billed as 'The Last of the Hillbillies' as part of a stage act. He settled in Australia, dropped the hillbilly act, and became one of Australia's top radio entertainers, later successfully transferring to television when the new medium arrived. I'm sure that many Australian readers will remember with affection his radio 'feud' with the late Jack Davey in the 1950's (along the lines of the Jack Benny/ Fred Allen 'feud' in the USA.) Although Bob had been retired for more than ten years, it's sad to think that he is no longer with us.

*Kathryn's book 'My Life With Bing' made an appearance in city book stores over the Christmas period. Selling as a banded offer with a cassette from Bing's radio broadcast, it made a very good gift at the special price of $24.99.

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COLLECTOR'S
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For some reason, the soundtrack LP of 'Road to Hong Kong' has had a variety of covers over the years. This is the original Australian issue which stands up quite well over the years. Wonder whatever happened to Joan Collins?

***
CORNER
******

THE OLDEST ESTABL
FLOATING CRAP G

B/W

Fugue for Tinhor

Here's an item that received quite a bit of airplay back in 1963. This is the cover of the U.K. 45 rpm issue and we've super-imposed the label of the record.

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FROM OUT OF THE PAST

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BING ON GOLF - FROM "CALL ME LUCKY"

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"I've been told that I'm relaxed and casual. If I am, I owe a lot to golf. Golf has provided relaxation which has kept my batteries charged when I put too heavy a load on them. It doesn't matter what my professional or personal problems are, when I step onto that first tee I get a sense of release and escape. When I concentrate for three to three and a half hours on trying to play a good game, the studio, my radio hour and the fact that the latest oil well in which I've invested is sprouting water are unimportant.

It doesn't seem to matter what my personal or professional problems are or how many things plague me, if I can arrange a golf match, everything is forgotten except an earnest desire to play well and beat my opponent.

The medics concede that a three- or four-hour respite from tension and knotty problems is of tremendous value to anyone who's stretching and straining to wrest a living from life as its lived today, which is certainly no soft touch. When you get back to your work after such surcease, you feel more like wrestling with it.

In my opinion competition on the links has removed more carbon knocks and emotional burrs from human minds than all of the psychiatrists' couches, I'm a fanatic on the subject, but golf is not only a game which brings out the best in individuals but those who play it are ready and willing to channel it into paths which contribute to public weal."

"My favourite story of golf as a character-rearranger is one I not only witnessed but participated in.It goes back quite a way, but it's still as vivid in my mind as a neon sign. When Al Rinker and I first hit California, we served a stretch with the motion picture stage presentation outfit, Paramount Publix. For a few months we alternated between Los Angeles' Metropolitan Theatre (now the Paramount)and San Francisco's Granada.

A frequent visitor backstage at the Metropolitan - he was there nearly every evening - was a young Scottish golf professional named Jock McLean. After a few weeks Al and I became quite friendly with him. Jock was an amateur song writer and was incurably stage struck

but he paid for his coffee and cakes by being a pro at an exclusive golf club in the Los Angeles area.

Rinker and I were already badly bitten by the golf bug. In fact, we were as golf struck as Jock was stage struck. Any time we could wangle free from our Paramount-Publix chores, we struggled around the Griffith Park Golf course. Not to put too pretty a face to it, this course then was rugged and had sand greens, a feature which is anathema to a dedicated golfer. It's impossible to pitch to such greens. Brooms were parked nearby to smooth the sand before and after putting.

Our new friend Jock was employed at a club where the layout was grass and where the greens were the finest in the West. We importuned Jock for a chance to play his course, but since it wasn't within his province to give us permission, we were unsuccessful. To overcome this impediment, Al and I held a pow-wow and came up with a Machiavellian gimmick. We manifested sudden interest in Jock's amateur song compositions and he grudgingly gave us permission to play the course if we promised to reach it early in the morning (around 6 o'clock) and depart before nine when the first members teed off.

Jock claimed that it would cost him his job if it were known that he'd given us permission to play. He particularly warned us to avoid a multi-millionaire member, whom I'll call Kimberley. It seems that Kimberley was irascible and a difficult man to get along with in every respect. He was especially truculent about any use of the course by outsiders. Not only that, but he was the club's "Scrooge". Penurious, mean, bitter, he was a chronic complainer about the food and service. He was constantly embroiled in quarrels with the House and Greens Committees as to their shortcomings in performing their jobs. He was so niggardly, hardly anyone would caddy for him. He never contributed to the Employee's Christmas Fund, and was forever thumping the table in favour of economies in the club's administration and facilities. In other words, he was quite heavy. Rinker and I made up our minds we'd steer clear of him.

We played the course daily, and followed Jock's admonitions religiously. We wet our feet with the early morning dew, and never ran into any of the members. One morning, however, we started later than usual and by eight-thirty were only on the tenth green. The tenth was a par three hole of about a hundred and fifty yards. It was getting set to

cont.../43

Completely separate from the golf tournament is an organization known as the Bing Crosby Youth Fund which is the recipient of funds raised by the tournament and which dispurses the money to worthy charities and student loan funds throughout the country.

In the 31 years that the tournament has been played on the Monterey Peninsula over $3 million has found its way to charity over the years.

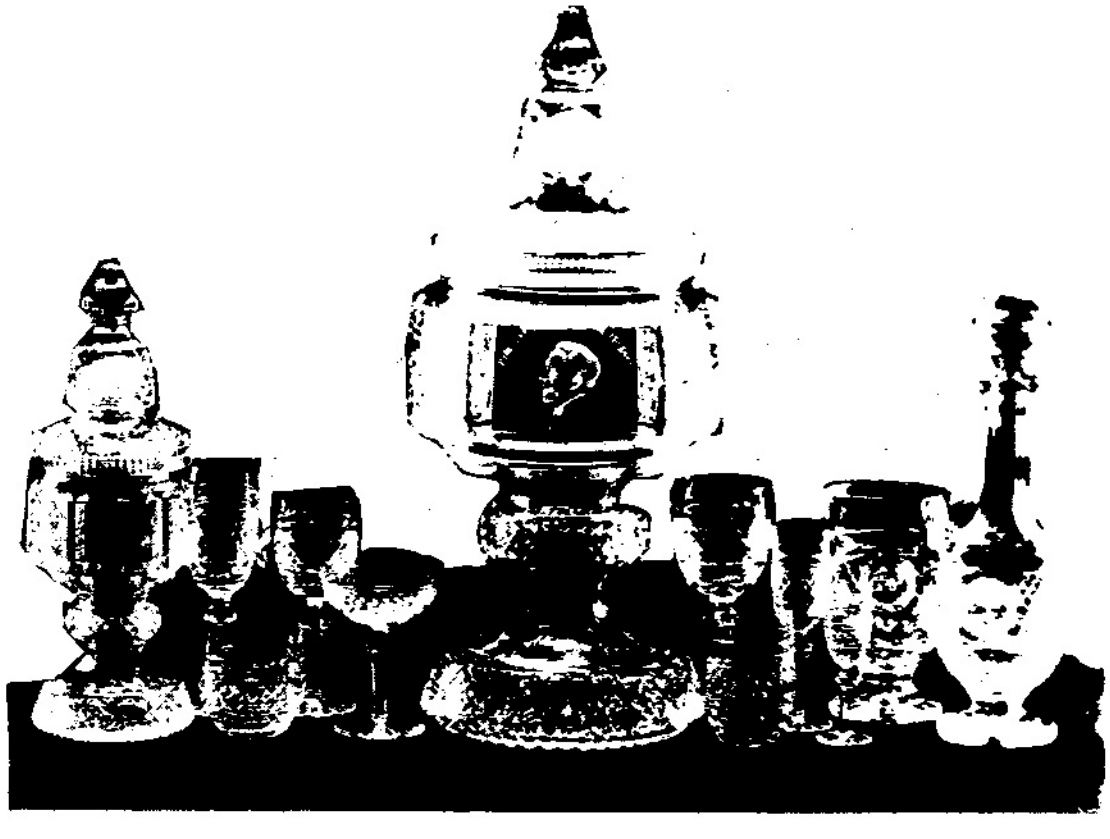
The board of the Fund is composed of Carmel "Cappy" Martin, Monterey attorney, who is volunteer secretary, and a board of Dan Searle, president; Roland Ingels, John Burns, Walter Schulken, Leon Edner, Chester Gillette, Peter Coniglio, Joe Fratessa and Ted Durein.

Although charities of all kinds have been recipients of charity funds, the main thrust has always been on youth.

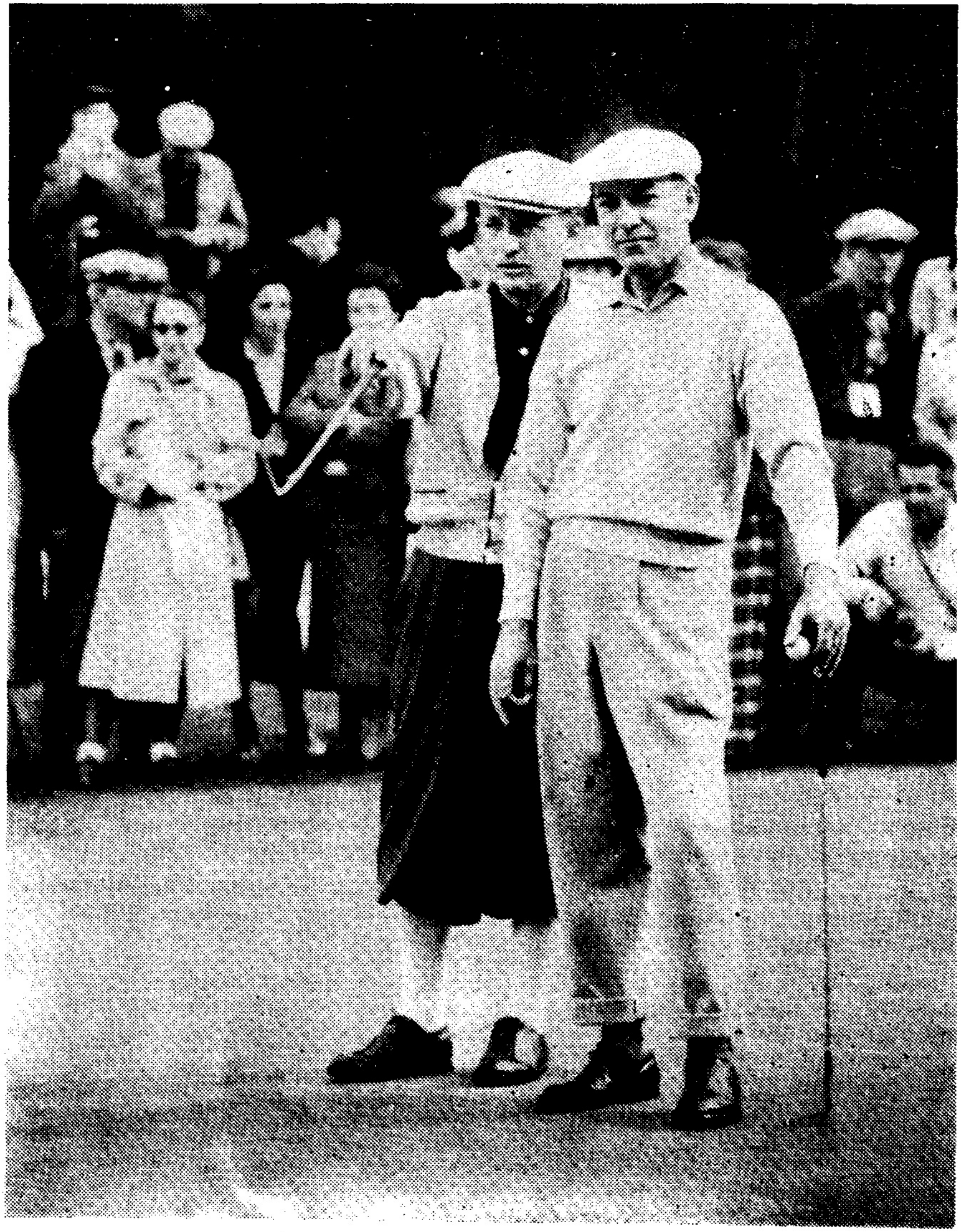
The development of student loan funds in 91 colleges and universities in 40 states is perhaps the closest to Bing's heart. The funds are loaned to students to be paid back after graduation. Reports from the universities indicate a high percentage of repayments, and many grateful students who might not otherwise been able to finish their education make additional contributions over and above their loans to help others.

"If I were asked what single thing has given me the most gratification in my long and sometimes pedestrian career," said Bing recently, "I think I would have to say it is this tournament. I'm proud to be associated with something which has done so much of genuine benefit for so many worthwhile causes."

All those who buy a ticket to the tournament help. As the money flows in, it in turn flows out again benefitting someone somewhere in the world. With the accent on youth.



Waterford Glass of Waterford, Ireland, this year has presented the Crosby tournament with beautiful pieces of their glass as amateur trophies. Center piece is the perpetual trophy to be awarded to the amateur winner for one year. The other pieces will be awarded permanently to the winner. Two hundred additional pieces will be awarded to other place winners.



(BING WITH THE GREAT BEN HOGAN, 1956.)

STRAIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE

The Crosby theme song

Straight Down the Middle...
It went Straight down the middle.
Then it started to hook just a wee, wee bit.
That's when the caddie lost sight of it.
That little white pellet has never been found to this day.
But it went straight down the middle like they say.

Whack! Down the fairway!
It went smack down the fairway!
Then it started to slide just a smidge off line.
It headed for Two, but it bounced off Nine.
The caddie said, "Long as it's still on the course you're OK."
Yes, it went straight down the middle, quite a way.

The sun was never brighter,
The green never greener
And I was never keener to play.
Oh, the life of a golfer is not all gloom...
There's always the lies in the locker room.
I'm in my glory when wrapped in a towel,
I say that it went straight down the middle,
And I was great down the middle,
Yes, it went straight down the middle today.

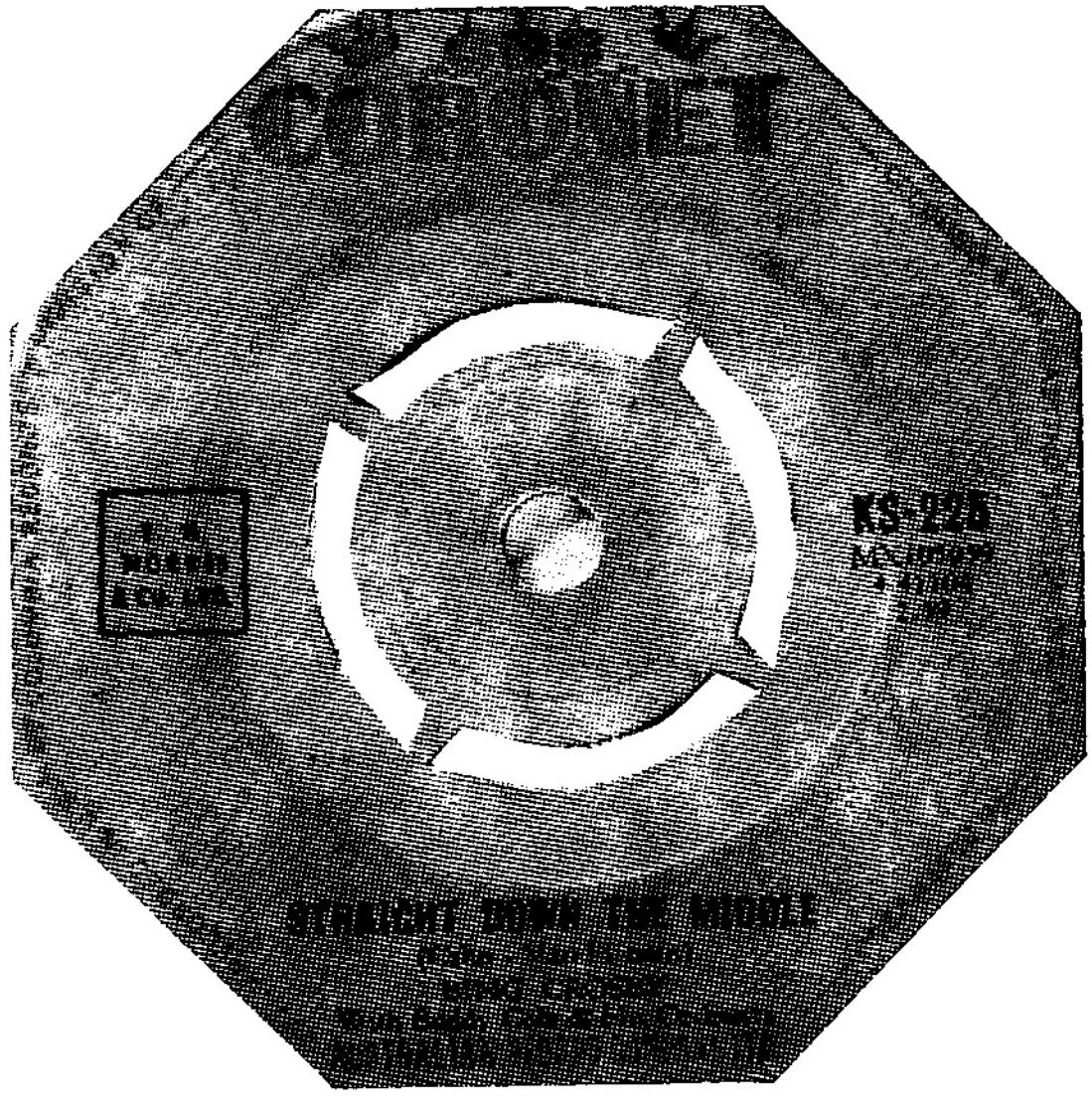
"Straight Down The Middle" is probably one of the most familiar songs ever written about the game of golf because it was introduced by Bing Crosby some years ago.

"That alone made many tunes popular," writes Janet Seagle in the U.S.G.A. Golf Journal. Now, of course, it is the theme song of the television program, coast to coast each January, of the Bing Crosby National Pro-Am golf championship.

The words and music are by Sammy Cahn and Jimmy Van Heusen and, like most songs written about golf, it is the kind of tune many golfers could sing to express their feelings as they play.

Jimmy Van Heusen, according to Seagle, also wrote the music for another golf song, with words by Johnny Burke, and it was titled, "Tomorrow's My Lucky Day."

The song was written in 1948 for the film, "Honor Caddy." The cover of the sheet music shows the stars of the film, Bing Crosby and Bob Hope, surrounded by smaller portraits of golfers including Ben Hogan, Sam Snead, Babe Didrikson, Chick Evans, Patty Berg and Frank Stranahan.



Bing Crosby, Golfer, Takes St. Andrews by Storm

LONDON, May 22.

Bing Crosby gave St. Andrews its most exciting Sunday afternoon for years yesterday. He arrived on the eve of the British amateur golf championship in a taxi from Edinburgh and after lunch went out for a pro-practice round on the Eden course, not the old course on which he will play his first round today. Sunday golf is forbidden on the old course.

All the youth of St. Andrews seemed aware of his arrival and crowded the golf course to such an extent that Bing was compelled to plead for leeway on the first green.

He was dressed in two pairs of trousers—one gabardine, the other cotton—crocodile shoes and a knitted tam o'shanter which, he explained, was the nearest thing he had to a Scottish bonnet—but it was given to him by an Indian tribe in Vancouver.

Bing's first ball after his drive was "souvenired" by the crowd. His second got trodden on. Still he continued swinging and finally got away from the first tee.

A police car arrived to control the throng. Girls jostled each other to walk alongside Bing between shots and although continually hemmed in and scarcely able to move a step, he remained good-natured, chatting and wisecracking with the youngsters.

One girl posed with Bing's arm around her while her boyfriend photographed them.

He continued in an atmosphere of gaiety throughout the 18 holes, doing a high stepdance before playing his last shot to the 18th green. He laid the ball three yards from the pin and holed out for a birdie three.

Bing's practice round score in his own words was—"About 100."

Bing on Golf - cont. from page 37

putt when I looked back at the tenth tee and saw an old gaffer bending over to tee up. It was too late for us to hide in the trees, so we stepped off the green and stood to one side near a sand trap. Our idea was to let the elderly chap play onto the green and then continue on through us.

He smacked a good one with his number five wood but it had a hook on it. It landed short of the green to the left, took a bounce and rolled right towards me. Impulsively, and without knowing why, I kicked it towards the green. The ball carried a low-lying sand trap, bounced twice , and plunked smack into the hole, coming to rest wedged between the stick and the inside of the cup. While Rinker and I stood there fascinated at the result of my drop kick, the old gaffer picked up the little canvas bag in which he carried his two or three clubs and approached the green.

"What'll we do now? I asked Rinker.

Let him look for it," he said.

On the green the old party looked around, then into the sand trap, interrupting his search from time to time to throw suspicious looks in our direction. We remained speechless, concentrating on a flock of blackbirds passing overhead, and a man who was mowing three fairways away.

Finally, the searcher asked, "Did you see a ball come this way?"
"Yes", I said, "it went on the green."
"It's not there now," he said.
"Maybe it went into the cup?" I said.
"What?" he screamed. He dropped his clubs, ran to the green, pulled out the pin, saw the ball in the hole, jumped up and down and waved his arms. He topped off this performance by rushing up to Rinker and me and embracing us.

"Seventeen years," he bellowed, "and this is my first Hole-in-One. And I've got witnesses. You saw it, didn't you?" We nodded. "This calls for a celebration," he declared. "Come into the clubhouse."

We pleased that we had work to do, but he was insistent. "You've got to testify for me," he said. "I must prove I made a hole-in-one. None of the members will believe it. Why, they won't even believe I hit the green."
So we went along to the clubhouse. En route I threw out a few

conversational feelers to see if it was safe to let him in on the truth about his "hole-in-one", but I could see what repercussions such a revelation would have. The very least would have been to cost Jock his job, so I gave up.

Inside the clubhouse he banged on doors, had the bar and the kitchen opened, dashed into the office, got his secretary on the telephone and told her to invite a lot of the members for a celebration luncheon that afternoon. Then he had the barman open champagne. We told him once more that we had to work, but he wasn't going to let us get away until the other members arrived and we'd testified about his ace.

"I've never given a party before," he chortled, "but the one I'm going to give will be a pip. You're my honour guests."

After Rinker and I had taken a few belts at the bubbly, our eagerness to get to the theatre in time for the matinee diminished. By lunch we'd forgotten there was a matinee, or a theatre, or show business for that matter. We'd progressed to a point where we could describe that hole-in-one graphically from the moment the ball left the tee, describing a course like a white string stretched in the sky, until it entered the cup. We eliminated, of course, any mention of the nudge I'd given it. At one point there was an embarrassing moment when Rinker and I couldn't agree as to whether the ball carried in on the fly or had bounced three or four times before plopping into the jug.

Next morning, the papers carried stories of Kimberley's feat. There were pictures of him standing in front of the locker-room and there were details of his background.

A day or two later, Jock McLean dropped in to see us. We were afraid we'd have to tell him the truth and reveal our deception. But Jock was all smiles. He had with him an embossed envelope with our names on it. We tore it open and pulled out the enclosed card. It was a two-month guest privilege card at the country club. We'd been proposed and seconded by Kimberley, who was the club's Vice-president.

"We'll just have to go out there some afternoon and wait for a mellow moment to reveal what happened," I told Rinker. "We can't go on letting this old boy spend all this dough on us and making nice gestures when the reason for his gratitude never really happened at all."

cont.../46

Bing Crosby
Columbia Broadcasting System
New York City

February 14, 1935

Dear Miss Groves:

Thanks for your letter and your interest. I appreciate any suggestions, and am always glad to know how the programs and pictures are received.

At present I am working on the picture "Mississippi" with Joan Bennett and W. C. Fields. I hope you will enjoy it.

With the Woodbury broadcast every Tuesday evening, at 9 o'clock, Eastern Standard Time, over the Columbia Coast to Coast System, my picture work, and making recordings for the Decca Record Company, I am kept pretty busy.

Have asked my secretary to enclose the picture you requested.

I hope my future efforts warrant your attention and approval. With best wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Bing

BC/gw

Bing on Golf, from page 44

"Yeah," agreed Rinker feebly, "that's what we'll have to do."
"It's not so much what we did," I said; "it's the fact that we let him go on believing he had an ace that's so reprehensible."

So we went out to the club on several different occasions for lunch, and we played around in afternoons when there were no matinees, but certain things had begun to happen at the club which made us think twice about springing our revelation. Kimberley, who had always been snug with a buck, was becoming practically profligate. He put up trophies for a caddies tournament. He established a fund for caddies who fell into financial difficulties because of sickness or lack of work. He gave two or three big parties for the members, bought I don't know how many sets of clubs and other equipment from Jock, and was working on a plan to retire the mortgage a local bank held on the club property.

His entire personality and approach to life had changed. And as the weeks went by, the change became even more evident. Rinker and I went to San Francisco for a month's engagement, then to Oakland and San Jose. Two or three months later, when we came back, we were at the club again playing golf with Kimberley.

By this time he's been elected to an important post in the Southern California Golf Association and was interesting himself in solving the problems faced by that group. He had become an important figure in local charities and was devoting himself to civic improvement.

Which should do as proof that golf is quite a thing when it comes to popping its practitioners out of their ruts."

(In this anecdote, Bing is asking his caddy's advice on how to make a birdie during one Texas Open Tournament).

"Well, now let's see," he said, putting my bag down on the edge of the green; "you want me to give this the full study?" "If you will," I replied. He walked towards the hole and surveyed the terrain above and below it. Then he got down on his knees and studied it from both sides while the crowd of seven or eight thousand waited. Finally, he shuffled over to me. I whispered, "Which way shall I put it?"

"Maybe we'd better go out this way a little the first time," he said waving his hand to the right. That "first time" unnerved me; and there

was a second time too. My first putt carried past the hole and I had to make a four-footer for a par coming back.

On the fifth hole, I had a chance to get on the green with my second shot, but the distance puzzled me. I called him over again and asked "What do I need to get home?"

"Mr Crosby," he said,"I don't even know where you live."

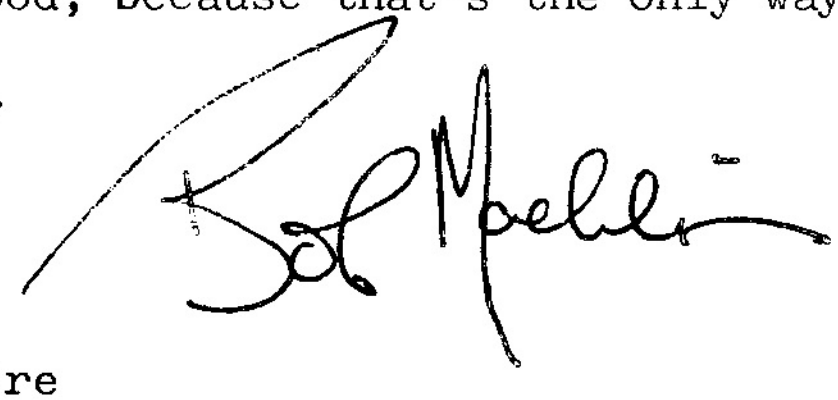
I eyed him sharply. I wondered if he was getting his material from Hope, but he was such a dead-pan character I couldn't tell.

I played pretty well for me, and was fairly happy with the round until the sixteenth, where I drove two into the water, dumped my fifth shot into a trap guarding the green, blasted the next one over the green and got down in twelve strokes. On the way to the next tee I asked my caddie if he could put down my score for that hole.

"Couldn't do that," he said.
"Why not?" I asked.
"I can't spell 'chaos', he said. No one has ever been able to convince me that Hope hadn't rehearsed that one with him.

And I guess that's where we'll leave issue number 27. You know, it's not until I get to this stage of the magazine, that is, typing the last page, that I have any idea of what the whole thing is going to be like. Oh sure I work out a plan before I begin, but it's only when you see all the pages either typed or pasted down in the case of the photo pages that it all comes together.

I hope that you liked this slightly different magazine. Perhaps we were a little heavy on the golf side, and I know that too much of anything can get a little boring at times. I'd be interested to hear yourcomments, bad as well as good, because that's the only way we can improve this thing. Don't forget, you won't be getting another edition of The Crosby Voice until after our third function for the year, so please make a note for the dates February 13th, March 25th and April 30th NOW. And please, if you're going to attend our BBQ, send your reservation form in as soon as possible. See you soon!



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BACK PAGE SPECIAL
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